

## **REMARKS**

### **Claim Rejections**

Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beck (U.S. 4,144,372). Claims 2 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### **Drawings**

It is noted that no Patent Drawing Review (Form PTO-948) was received with the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant must assume that the drawings are acceptable as filed.

### **New Claims**

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 2, 6 and 7; has amended claims 1, 3, 4, and 5 and added new claim 8 to this application. Claims 3-5 have been amended to obviate the rejections set forth under 35 U.S.C. § 112. It is believed that the new claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 7 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicant's new independent claim 8 comprises the combination of original claims 1 and 2, thus redrafting claim 2 in independent form. Amended claims 3 and 4 depend from new claim 8. Applicant's amended claim 1 comprises a combination of original claims 1, 6 and 7, thus redrafting claim 7 in independent form. Amended claim 5 depends from claim 1.

In the absence of any art cited against Applicant's original claims 2 and 7, it is not believed that any detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is necessary. Suffice to say that all of the claims remaining in this patent application contain subject matter against which no prior art citations have been made.

Application No. 10/076,569

**Summary**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 21, 2004

By:

  
Bruce H. Troxell  
Reg. No. 26,592

TROXELL LAW OFFICE PLLC  
5205 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1404  
Falls Church, Virginia 22041  
Telephone: 703 575-2711  
Telefax: 703 575-2707